

considering to encourage asbestos mining industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the asbestos fibre is being imported, if so, the total tonnage of import and its value during each of the last three years; and

(d) the number of existing asbestos mining units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) The details of imports of asbestos during the year 1988-89 to 1990-91 are as under:-

Year	Asbestos	Total	Asbestos	Fibre Raw
	Qty. (Tonne)	Value (Rs. '000)	Qty. (Tonne)	Value (Rs. '000)
1988-89	101,345	63,57,35	99,777	62,45,37
1989-90	NA	NA	NA	NA
1990-91 (Prov.)	77,885	72,45,76	77,234	71,83,16

(d) There were 73 reporting asbestos mines during the year 1990-91.

Setting up of River Board

6190. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a river Board for connecting the major rivers of the country in order to solve the problem of flood and drought to a great extent; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN

SHUKLA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, the National Water Development Agency has been set up in 1982. It has *inter-alia* taken up studies for connecting the major rivers in the peninsular and Himalayan region for transfer of waters from the surplus basins to deficit basins. This will help alleviate the problem of flood and drought to a great extent by integrated development of water resources of the country.

[Translation]

Air Service between Bombay and Khajuraho

6191. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce an air service from Bombay to Khajuraho;